

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and courtesy extended during the subsequent telephone conference.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 6.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicant respectfully notes that while the Examiner indicated in the Office Action mailed October 27, 2003, that initialed PTO-1449 forms were enclosed corresponding to the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 29, 2001 and August 27, 2001, no PTO-1449 forms were enclosed. Thus, the Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner forward a copy of the initialed PTO-1449 forms corresponding the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 29, 2001 and August 27, 2001.

Objection(s)

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p). Applicant respectfully submits that replacement drawings filed on January 27, 2004 are formal and meet all the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p). Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

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Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph. The Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims have been amended in the response filed on January 27, 2004. Specifically, claim 1 was amended to include additional method steps to clarify the scope of the claims. Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments to claim 1 render the rejection moot. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by iPlanet Directory Server Administrator's Guide (Document ID 816-0799-01) ("iPlanet").

iPlanet is not valid prior art to this application. As evidenced by the attached declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, the present invention was conceived prior to the effective § 102 (a) date of iPlanet, and subsequently constructively reduced to practice with due diligence exercised by the inventors. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

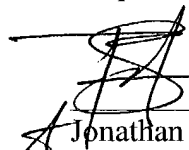
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Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220.020001).

Date: 6/14/04

Respectfully submitted,

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